

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022]        The switch fabric memory ~~103~~ 104 may be completely shared or partitioned. Shared memory architectures for the switch fabric memory ~~103~~ 104 include either one or multiple (*M*) memory units where all memory locations are completely shared. Partitioned memory architectures for the switch fabric memory ~~103~~ 104 include multiple memory units dedicated for specific data. For partitioned memory, the memory units, for example, can be dedicated to cells for specific output ports or to cells from specific input/output port pairs.